

PAUSSID BEETLES IN MEXICO*

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In America, paussids are rare insects, strictly confined to the tropics. Only one individual has been recorded from Mexico (Pallister 1954), so far as I know. Six additional Mexican specimens that are now before me are therefore of special interest. They represent three distinct species. All three species have been known before from South America or at least from Panama. All three may therefore have spread northward comparatively recently, perhaps since the Central American isthmus was completed late in the Pliocene. The accompanying sketch-map of southern Mexico (Fig. 1) shows the localities of the specimens in question. The actual northernmost record for any American paussid is still that of *Homopterus hondurensis* from northern Yucatan (Pallister). The new record of *H. (A.) praemonens* from 22 miles southeast of Jalapa, Vera Cruz, represents the farthest known advance of any paussid onto the continent of North America.

Although most or all paussids are probably myrmecophilous at least during some stage of their life history, the only actual record of an American species with ants is still apparently that of *Homopterus steinbachi* in a nest of *Dolichoderus bispinosus* (Darlington 1950, p. 48). Pallister's (1954) specimen of *H. hondurensis* from Yucatan was "swept from weeds and vegetation, about two feet from the ground, bordering a trail through deep forested jungle." Most or all other Mexican specimens, recorded now, were taken at light, including "black" light. They are of course all winged, and they evidently fly at night.

The recent, useful review of American paussids by Luna de Carvalho (1963) makes it unnecessary for me to cite references or discuss species in detail. The present short paper is in fact little more than a supplement to Carvalho's paper.

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Homopterus (Arthropteropsis) praemonens Kolbe

Previously known from Bolivia, Brazil, and San Salvador. New records: El Zapotal, 2 miles south of Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas,

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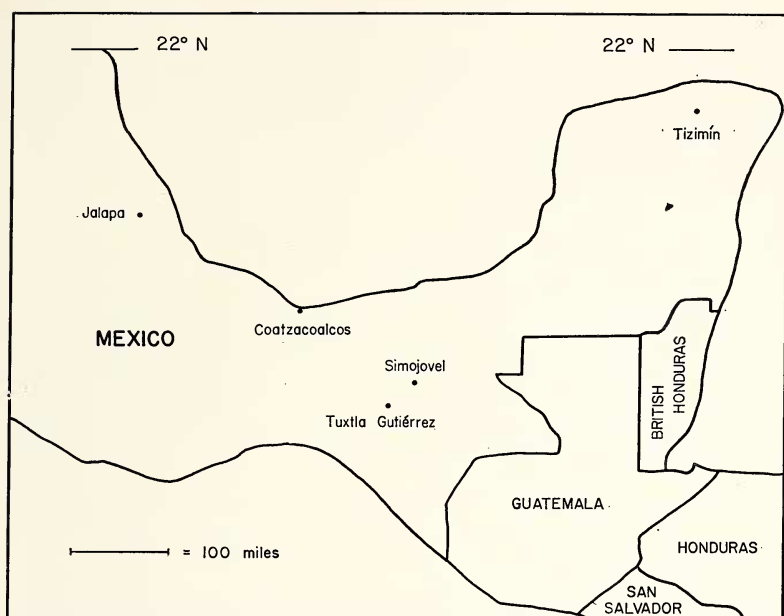


Fig. 1. Mexican localities at or near which paussids have been collected.

July 1, 1957, at light (J. A. Chemsak & B. J. Rannells, in collection of California Insect Survey, Berkeley); 22 miles southeast of Jalapa, Vera Cruz, 1100 ft., June 29, 1958 (University of Kansas Mexican Expedition).

Homopterus hondurensis Darlington

Previously known from Panama, Honduras, and about 40 miles east of Tizimín, northern Yucatan (Pallister 1954). New records: El Zapotal, 2 miles south of Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, July 1, 1957, at light (J. A. Chemsak and B. J. Rannells, in collection of California Insect Survey); Santo Domingo, 15 miles southeast of Simojovel, Chiapas, July 8-15, 1958, at light (J. A. Chemsak, 2 specimens, in collection of California Insect Survey and Canadian National Collection).

Homopterus steinbachi Kolbe

Previously known only from South America: Bolivia (the type), Colombia (Darlington 1950, p. 48), French Guiana, and Brazil

(Luna de Carvalho 1963). New records: Camp Sibun, 200 m., Cayo District, British Honduras, July 23, 1960 (E. Willing, in collection of California Insect Survey); 10 miles south of *Coatzacoalcas*, Vera Cruz, July 10, 1963, at black light (J. T. Doyen, in collection of California Insect Survey).

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